

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented): A communications method, comprising:

establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host according to an instant messaging protocol;

receiving, at an instant messaging client, an instant message that is directed from the sender to the recipient;

receiving, as a component part of the instant message, a discrete video instant message that has been recorded by the sender; and

receiving an indication from the user that triggers the sending of the video instant message after recording of the video instant message is completed by the sender.

31. (Previously presented): A communications apparatus comprising an instant messaging client configured to:

establish an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host;

receive, at an instant messaging client, an instant message that is directed from the sender to the recipient;

receive, as a component part of the instant message, a discrete video instant message that has been recorded by the sender; and

receive an indication from the user that triggers the sending of the video instant message after recording of the video instant message is completed by the sender.

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32-35. (Cancelled)